## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ACDA-10 COME-00 INT-05 FEA-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 CEQ-01 NSF-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 EPA-04 EB-08 /141 W

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R 121805Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1781

**UNCLAS BRUSSELS 11694** 

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SENV, BE

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF ANTARCTIC SEAL CONVENTION

REF: (A) STATE 216562, (B) BRUSSELS 728

- 1. BELGIAN ELECTIONS AND FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT INTERFERRED WITH SENATE RATIFICATION OF CONVENTION. FOLLOWING ELECTIONS A NEW RAPPORTEUR (SEN. CALEWAERT) WAS DESIGNATED TO REPORT TO THE SENATE ON THE CONVENTION. CALEWAERT HAS REPUTATION FOR EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF MATTERS FOR WHICH HE IS RESPONSIBLE. CONVENTION ITSELF REMAINS NON-CONTENTIOUS, APOLITICAL ISSUE IN BELGIUM.
- 2. WE ARE INFORMED BY PARLIAMENTARY SOURCE THAT CONVENTION IS LIKELY TO BE AMONG FIRST ITEMS OF BUSINESS ON SENATE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION AGENDA WHEN PARLIAMENT RECONVENES IN OCTOBER. AFTER COMMISSION APPROVAL, THE CONVENTION WILL PASS TO THE FULL SENATE FOR DEBATE AND VOTE. THESE STEPS ARE NOT LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER ANY MORE DIFFICULTY IN SENATE THAN THEY DID IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WHERE CONVENTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY ON DECEMBER 16, 1976. UNCLASSIFIED

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- 3. FOLLOWING SENATE APPROVAL, THE CONVENTION MUST BE SIGNED BY THE KING AND PUBLISHED IN MONITEUR, OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, IN ORDER TO HAVE FORCE OF LAW.
- 4. OUR BEST CURRENT ESTIMATE FOR THE ENTIRE RATIFICATION PROCESS TO BE COMPLETED IS FOR THE END OF 1977. WILL

ADVISE OF SIGNIFICANT STEPS AS THEY OCCUR. CHAMBERS

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## Message Attributes

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